

**Consideration of resolution to approve ingress and egress site at Indiana Dunes State Park for kayaks and canoes; Administrative Cause No. 14-059P**

Consolidated Amendments to Lake Michigan Restricted Boating Zones (LSA Document #14-25; Administrative Cause No. 14-017L), which is scheduled for consideration of final adoption, includes the approval of an exception to the no-boat zone along the shoreline of the public beach at Indiana Dunes State Park. The exception establishes a lane for the safe launching and landing of kayaks and canoes. The lane allows Indiana to participate in the Lake Michigan Water Trail, which has been designated by the U.S. Department of Interior, as well as in the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission's Regional Greenways and Blueways Plan. The multi-state effort includes coordinated directional and interpretive signage for multi-day circuit kayakers. Indiana Dunes State Park is critical to Indiana's participation in the 1,000 mile circuit as it is the only Indiana facility on the lake accessible directly to kayakers which provides camping facilities.

Kayakers which enter the park by motor vehicle must pay the standard fee at the gate. They must have either an annual pass or pay \$5 or \$10 per vehicle, depending on whether they are Indiana or out-of-state residents. Ingress or egress from the park at the kayak lane is not currently approved. A person entering from the kayak lane, who has not already paid an access fee that applies to the date of entry, would be required to pay a \$2 entrance fee, as are persons entering at the gate on foot or by bicycle. They would be given direction for payment of the entrance fee by a lifeguard, security, or management professional within Indiana Dunes State Park.

A state park is a "DNR property" as defined at 312 IAC 8-1.5-6. For a patron to enter Indiana Dunes State Park lawfully, entry must be made at an approved location. As provided in 312 IAC 8-1-3(a), the Natural Resources Commission "may, in a master plan or by resolution, establish any of the following:

- (1) Fees for:
  - (A) entrance into a DNR property; or
  - (B) a particular use within a DNR property.
- (2) Entrance and exit sites for a DNR property...."

The DNR recommends the Commission adopt the following resolution:

A person with a kayak or canoe may enter or exit Indiana Dunes State Park through the channel for kayaks and canoes established in 312 IAC 5-8-3. A person entering the park at this location is responsible for the same fee as is required for entry into the park by bicycle.